

From larvae collected in October-November 1973, seven adults (five from Portland and two from Benfleet) emerged between the 28th of June and the 8th of July. Mr. Scarsdale Brown tells me he bred about 15 specimens from Dorset. The imagines correspond well with the description I made from French examples in the British Museum (Natural History) (*loc. cit.*), except that the head is not fuscous as I stated, but ranges from ferruginous to fuscous, most having the centre of the crown fuscous and the frons and sides ferruginous.—A. M. EMMET, Labrey Cottage, Victoria Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex, 2.xii.1974.

ESSEX INSECTS IN 1974.—On 21st July I caught a rather small female *Mythimna unipuncta* Haw. in my m.v. trap in the garden. It is perfect though not quite fresh. As I have bred *unipuncta* from Tresco and Portland and as, so far as I can trace, it is the only Essex record except half a dozen by Mr. A. J. Dewick at Bradwell, I killed and set it.

Immigrants have been rare here this year, although we had a large late brood of *Vanessa atalanta* L. I cut down all my buddleias at the beginning of October but on 5th October there were five *atalanta* in the front garden, four sitting on roses and one on the wall of the house. I regret to say I have seen no *Nymphalis polychloros* L. this year.—H. C. HUGGINS, 65 Eastwood Boulevard, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.

EUPHIDRYAS AURINEA ROTT.—A SECOND BROOD SPECIMEN AND FURTHER NOTES ON A SURREY COLONY.—In a past issue of this magazine I wrote concerning a colony of *Euphydryas aurinia* Rott. near Guildford, Surrey (*Ent. Rec.*, 84:289). At that time (1972), this colony appeared to have been destroyed by a heath fire, but the following year in August, during a rather hopeless inspection of the former habitat, I was surprised and delighted to see a large web of young larvae. In view of the precarious state of the colony I decided to keep a small proportion of these larvae in captivity, as an insurance policy against further mishap in the wild, and I took exactly 20 away.

These hibernated on potted Scabious in our garden during the winter of 1973/74. This was particularly favourable to hibernating larvae (*vide* comments by Major-General Lipscomb, *Ent. Rec.*, 86:170), and all 20 came through the winter unscathed! As is usual with this species, they fed voraciously in early spring and pupated around the end of April and beginning of May.

Roughly equal numbers of both sexes emerged and seven pairings were achieved—two of these pairs remained *in cop.* for nearly 48 hours.

I chose a sunny warm afternoon on 11th June to take these fertile female *aurinia* back to their original locality, but though I stayed at the site over an hour failed to see a single wild specimen. Indeed there was a critical paucity of Scabious,